

I. REMARKS

Claims 9-17 are currently pending in this application. Of these, claims 9-14 and 16-17 stand rejected, and claim 15 is objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated in the Final Office Action, however, that claim 15 would be allowable if written in independent format. The Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action that all amendments proposed in Applicant's Reply to the Final Office Action filed January 5, 2004, were entered. No amendments are requested in this filing.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the grounds that they are obvious over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,711,988 (issued Jan. 27, 1998) to Tsai ("Tsai") and U.S. Patent No. 5,649,982 (issued Jul. 22 1997) to Halliop ("Halliop").

Referring to the discussion presented in Applicant's Reply filed January 5, 2004, Applicant maintains that these rejections be withdrawn because neither Tsai nor Halliop teaches or suggests Applicant's claim element of activated carbon fabric.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that:

the carbon coated layer relied upon in Tsai and the carbon fibers relied upon in Halliop, each inherently have a surface area necessary for lamination. That alone would be sufficient evidence that both Tsai and Halliop each teach 'activated carbon fabric'.

See ADVISORY ACTION, page 2. This is incorrect. Whether a carbon fabric is activated has nothing to do with whether the carbon fabric has a surface area necessary for lamination.

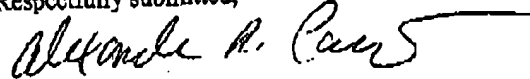
The term "activated carbon" is a term of art referring to a specific type of carbon that has very different physical characteristics and properties based on its "enormous surface area". See e.g., N.N. GREENWOOD & A. FARNSHAW, CHEMISTRY OF THE ELEMENTS 274 (2d ed 1997) (a copy of the relevant portion of this reference is attached hereto).

In sum, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections over the combination of Tsai with Halliop be withdrawn because the combination does not teach or suggest Applicant's activated carbon fabric, which is an element of all of Applicant's claims.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant has overcome all rejections, and reconsideration is requested. Please charge the required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(c), estimated to be \$385.00 for a small entity, to deposit account number 501358. In addition, please charge any under payments or other required fees or credit any over payments to this deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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